

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-4 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A sampling apparatus comprising;
  - (A01) a frame fixed at a prescribed position relative to the an object lens of an optical microscope,
  - (A02) a moving member supported with by said fixed frame so as to be reciprocatably movable between a sampling position and a waiting position,
  - (A03) a member for holding said moving member at the waiting position,
  - (A04) a sampling needle supported by said moving member;  
a device for adjusting the a position of a said sampling needle relative to said moving member so that the a tip of said sampling needle is situated at the a focus position of the object lens of said optical microscope in the a state wherein said moving member was is moved to the sampling position, and
  - (A05) means for fixing said sampling needle to said moving member in the state wherein whereby the position of said sampling needle relative to said moving member was is adjusted so that the tip of said sampling needle is situated at the focus position of the object lens of said optical microscope; and

means for moving a surface on which a sample is located.

2. (Currently amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

{A06} said member for holding said moving member at the waiting position is composed of an elastic member which acts on said moving member so as to hold said member always at the waiting position and to ~~make the enable~~ movement of said moving member to said sampling position ~~possible at the time~~ when external force ~~was is~~ applied to said moving member so as to move said member to said sampling position.

3. (Currently amended) The sampling apparatus according to claim 1 wherein

{A07} said fixed frame is constructed so as to be attachable to and detachable from a mirror cylinder which supports the object lens of said optical microscope.

4. (Currently amended) A sampling method comprising ~~conducting the following steps (B01) to (B03) in order:~~

{B01} a sample moving step in which ~~the a~~ surface on which a sample is ~~attached located~~ is moved so that said

sample is moved to ~~the a~~ focus position of ~~the an~~ object lens of an optical microscope,

{B02} a needle moving step in which a moving member, which supports a sampling needle and is moved integratedly with the sampling needle, is moved from a waiting position where ~~the a~~ position of ~~the a~~ tip of the sampling needle is apart spaced from the focus position of the object lens of an optical microscope to a sampling position where the tip of the sampling needle is situated at the focus position of the object lens of said optical microscope, and

{B03} a sampling sample pick up step in which a said sample caught is caught and held on the tip of the sampling needle is taken and moved away from the surface on which the sample is attached and then collected, by using a sampling apparatus in which a said moving member, which supports a sampling needle and is moved integratedly with the sampling needle, is adjusted is adjustable so as to be reciprocatably movable between a waiting position where the position of the tip of the sampling needle is apart spaced from the focus position of the object lens of an optical microscope and a sampling position where the tip of the sampling needle is situated at the focus position of the object lens of said optical microscope whereby said sample may be analyzed.